

GREGG TOWNSHIP NEWS

Published by the Gregg Township Board of Supervisors
Summer 2004

Office Hours: Mon-Wed-Fri 8:30–2:30
Phone: 422-8218 **Fax:** 422-8080
Email: secretary@greggtownship.org
Website: www.greggtownship.org

Board of Supervisors

Walter Strouse, Roadmaster 422-8538
Doug Bierly, Vice Chairman 422-8093
Jay Sletson, Chairman 422-8243

Secretary/Treasurer

Julie Mason 422-8218

Planning Commission

Doug Bierly, Chairman 422-8093
Jim Baughman, Vice Chair 422-4944
Sandy Kosik 422.8703
Scott Wolfe 422.8455
Ian Smith 422.8099
Chris Kunes 422.0313
Ruth Jackson 422.
Don Myers 422.8111

Fire Company

Robert Peese, President 422-8595
Doug Young, Chief 422-0329
Keith Peese, Secretary
Schenley Johnson, Treasurer 422-8131
Don Grenoble, Fiscal Secretary 422-8624

Zoning Enforcement Officer (permits)

Glenn Ripka 349-8177

Sewage Enforcement Officer

Josef Kerschner 570-962-3140

Sewer Authority

Gil Morrison, Chairman 422-8779

Tax Collector

Donna Miller 422-8101

Newsletter Editor

Jay Sletson 422-8243

Please say thanks to our advertisers –
they help us pay for our newsletter.

Gregg Township Meeting Calendar

Board of Supervisors	2nd Thursday	7:00 PM	Township Building
Planning Commission	1 st Monday	7:00 PM	Township Building
Sewer Authority	4th Tuesday	7:30 PM	Fire Hall
Zoning Hearing Board	As needed	7:00 PM	Township Building
Penns Valley	4th Monday	7:00 PM	To be announced
Regional Planning Commission			

SUMMER UPDATES

- ▶ **ROAD CLOSINGS FOR JUNE**
- ▶ **Ordinances soon available on line for residents to view**
- ▶ **Road paving projects to begin June 14th**
- ▶ **State mandates building standards across Pennsylvania**
- ▶ **Regional Planning Commission holds Town Hall meeting**
- ▶ **Gregg Township Fireman's Carnival - August, 5, 6 and 7th**

TOWNSHIP ROADS TO CLOSE FOR SHORT PERIOD SOON

Paving projects start next week and tentative closings look like this:

June 14 ...Gingerich Gap and Blue Ball	June 18 ...Ross Hill
June 15 ...Allison and Green Grove	June 21 ...Harter
June 16 ...Allison and Green Grove (again)	June 22 ...Lower Georges
June 17 ...Middle Road	June 23 ...Reeder
June 24 ...Orndorf	

You can visit www.greggtownship.org or check the “**You Need To Know**” column on page two of the *Centre Daily Times* for a list of which roads will be paved each day, weather permitting.

Thanks for your patience as we work to bring more of our roads up to snuff. Below are some details on which sections of road we're doing:

- **Middle Road from Ridge Road to the Potter Township line**
- **Lower Georges Valley from Penns Creek Road to Harter Road**
- **Allison Road from Penns Cave Road to Green Grove Road**
- **Reeder Rd from Lower Georges Valley to Upper Georges Valley**
- **East Green Grove Road from Brush Mountain Road to Penn Twp.**
- **Ross Hill Road from Penns Cave Road to State Route 45**
- **Orndorf Road from Immel Road to the Penn Township line**
- **Harter Rd from Lower Georges Valley to Upper Georges Valley**
- **Gingrich Gap Road from State Route 192 approximately 1.25 miles**
- **Blue Ball Gap Road from State Route 192 approximately 1.0 miles**

PENNS VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

All seven municipalities in Penns Valley hosted a Town Hall meeting last month to hear from everyone willing to come and talk about the pros and cons of planning for our future. We had a great turnout and lots of heart-felt comments were shared – by new and long-standing residents.

At our July meeting township officials will review a summary of the meeting and continue working towards building consensus for a regional comprehensive plan that balances our community's right to plan for sensible growth and the economic needs and property rights of land owners

Our goal: work together openly to create a balanced plan for future growth. Want to get involved? Attend a meeting on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 PM at Gregg Township. Public comment is always welcome.

FIREMAN'S CARNIVAL AUGUST 5, 6 & 7

Some stop by and support our fire fighters and enjoy the great food - hoagies, hot dogs, fries, burgers, sausage sandwiches, cheesesteaks, pizza, lemonade, soda and ice cream. Others come Saturday afternoon for our nearly world famous barbecue chicken dinners.

This year we hope some will come to hear our new music line up featuring a disc jockey, and as of press time, live bands playing Bluegrass, Blues, Rock & Roll & Rockabilly. Some love the new car show, and others are hoping to see the township supervisors on the plank at the dunk tank (now THAT would raise some funds...). Whatever floats your boat, please stop by and support our firemen. They keep us safe by volunteering their time when we're in trouble.

This year they're looking to expand the fire company and bring on some younger folks to learn the skills needed to fight fires and keep our homes and businesses protected. If you're interested in joining or know of someone who is, call **Doug Young** at **422.0329** or stop by the fire hall most Monday evenings after supper.

STATEWIDE BUILDING CODE NOW PA. LAW

Like it or not the legislature passed Act 45 and the Governor signed it, and that means that many of us will be paying more in permit fees to build and repair houses and accessory buildings across Pennsylvania.

Every township has the choice to "opt in", and enforce the new building codes, or "opt out", and allow Labor & Industry in Harrisburg to do the job. After much discussion, it is clear that no matter what path we take, Gregg Township residents will be inconvenienced and pay more money. The question seems to be whether we trust the folks in Harrisburg to be prompt and fair in their enforcement, or if our citizens will be better served by keeping it local. And we'll be making the final decision at our next meeting – stop by or call if you would like your voice to be heard.

PLEASE NOTE: All permits issued between now and early July will NOT be subject to the new codes, the inspections and the fees that come with this new state law. That must be why so many folks are picking them up lately...something to think about if you are planning to build a new structure or add on to an existing one...

NEW ORDINANCES FOR VILLAGE OF SPRING MILLS

A new property maintenance ordinance and a new burn ordinance are coming up for a vote in June, and if passed, will be in effect for the Village of Spring Mills by the time you read this newsletter. The Board of Supervisors received many complaints and held several hearings on burning and un-cared for properties. Rather than establish standards for the whole township, the Board focused ordinances where the complaints originated, and where citizens live in close proximity.

Gregg Township's Burn Ordinance **permits** ceremonial or recreational fires, outdoor cooking, and burning most of your trash. The entire ordinance can be obtained in the township building or on line at www.greggtownship.org

The primary features of the burn ordinance for the Village of Spring Mills:

1. Fires must be tended by an adult (age 16 or older) and not allowed to smolder or produce noxious fumes
2. No burning of plastic, plastic-coated products, treated lumber, furniture, mattresses, rubber products and the like.
3. A ban on the installation of outdoor furnaces, boilers and other devices (with current units "grandfathered")

The Property Maintenance Ordinance can be seen at the township office or on line and features these main points:

1. Grass, weeds and vegetation shall be kept below a height of ten inches (10").
2. Buildings must be maintained to ensure the property is safe, sound, sanitary, and secure. Unoccupied buildings that through neglect present a safety or health hazard to the community may be required to be removed.
3. Abandoned buildings or structures shall not be left in a state of disrepair as to be detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Village.
4. Materials shall not be allowed to accumulate on said property that might be unsafe. It will be a violation to accumulate or permit to be accumulated upon private property in the Village of Spring Mills garbage, refuse, ruffraff, junk vehicles, debris, and other combustible or incombustible refuse or rubbish.
5. Roof gutters, drains, or any other system designed and constructed to transport stormwater are not to be discharged into any sanitary sewage system.
6. Refrigerators, freezers and other similar storage chests must not be discarded, abandoned or stored in any place or location that is accessible to the general public without completely removing locking devices and doors.
7. Grounds, buildings, and structures shall be maintained free of insect, vermin, and rodent harborage and infestation.
8. Adequate sanitary facilities and methods shall be used to collect, store, handle and disposal of garbage and refuse
9. Where there exists rodent and vermin infestation, corrective measures shall be undertaken by the property owner and/or occupant to alleviate the existing problem(s), to include screening, extermination, and or garbage and refuse control. Methods employed for extermination shall conform with generally accepted practices.

Enforcement is handled differently in different communities. Some townships and boroughs hire officers to drive around looking for violators and write citations. That will NOT be the approach in Gregg Township.

These ordinances were written to accommodate the requests of many citizens in the Village of Spring Mills who had concerns and complaints about neighboring property owners and occupants who were jeopardized their health and safety, and it will be up to them, and other residents with concerns to contact the Penns Valley Code Enforcement Agency at 349.8177 to lodge a formal complaint.

Not everyone can get to a township meeting or stop by during our office hours to look at new ordinances, yet, as we all know, we're all responsible for abiding by them. The same goes for township minutes – not many are willing to come by (or can stay awake through) supervisor meetings – but everyone should be tuned into what is going on.

That's why this summer we are working to expand our web site so that you can go on line to read over meeting minutes and township ordinances. If you have other suggestions to improve our web site, our newsletter or other communications, please send us an email or call and share your thoughts.

ELECTIONS MOVE BACK TO FIRE HALL

Some folks asked why township elections, which were held at the fire hall, were moved back there this spring.

In a nutshell, the township reluctantly agreed to host elections when they left the fire hall since there were not many alternatives. But after a few times, we heard from some nearby businesses that parking for their customers was difficult, and that people were going into their businesses thinking it was to place to vote.

Also, the township was also not permitted to be "open" on election day, which was not an ideal situation. So, when we received complaints from our neighbors and realized the township location was not a good fit, we declined to host elections this year.

We have heard from many citizens who are happy to walk to the fire hall to vote, and thank our fire company and auxiliary for taking back our voting site duties.

We can all be proud of how many Gregg Township citizens vote – we are consistently near the top of the county in terms of the percentage of registered voters who vote. That's a fabulous level of participation!

GREGG TOWNSHIP
PO BOX 184
SPRING MILLS, PA 16875

U. S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 38
CENTRE HALL, PA

Address label

Centre printing ad here